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September 9, 2016

The Honorable Craig Fugate
Office of the Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20472

Administrator Fugate,

It is with great disappointment that I write today regarding your decision to not participate in the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship hearing to examine the Louisiana flood disaster. Your role in directing the response and recovery to this disaster as Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is important not only to Congress but also to the devastated communities in South Louisiana. This hearing is an opportunity to explain in detail the struggle that many hardworking Louisianians are going through in the aftermath of one of America's worst natural disasters since Hurricane Sandy. This hearing is an accessible venue to share your plans to ensure FEMA remains committed to their recovery.

As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I hoped to provide the hundreds of thousands of small businesses and homeowners who have lost everything the opportunity to hear an update on the flood recovery directly from you. Louisianians have long felt that FEMA is a big bureaucracy that simply goes through the motions. This is an opportunity to show people that FEMA is sincere about managing emergencies. It is unfortunate that you will not attend.

I hope that you will reconsider your decision.

Sincerely,



David Vitter
Chairman